

BLUES REVUE DEC/JAN 2006
Lightnin' Charlie – A New Leaf

Tennessee's **Lightnin' Charlie** proves a versatile guitarist and a smooth singer on a *New Leaf* (Blue Chip 3371). Musicians will dig his range of punchy tones, and most listeners will enjoy the way he and his band (and engineer) blur distinctions between vintage and modern. Top-notch material - A plus; Charlie covers Junior Wells, Rosco Gordon, and Magic Sam and submits fine originals like the jumping "Obviously" and the front-porch acoustic tune "Blues Are To Blame." The backwards shuffle "Miami Tammi"; the Johnny Watson-inspired ballad "Friend," where stinging guitar bounces off cooing background vocals; and a drum-less reading of Freddy King's "Taking Care Of Business" stand out.